

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-17 (Cancelled)

18 (New): A nucleic acid comprising a sequence which hybridizes to the complement of SEQ ID NO: 26 under stringent conditions and which encodes a polypeptide that has phospholipase A2 activity,

wherein stringent conditions comprise heating at 42°C in 6X SSC, 0.5% SDS and 50% formamide and washing at 68°C in 0.1X SSC and 0.5% SDS.

19 (New): The nucleic acid sequence of Claim 18, which encodes the polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO: 27.

20 (New) The nucleic acid sequence of Claim 18, which encodes a polypeptide consisting of SEQ ID NO: 27.

21 (New) The nucleic acid sequence of Claim 18, which encodes a polypeptide consisting of a fragment of SEQ ID NO: 27.

22 (New) The nucleic acid sequence of Claim 18, which encodes a polypeptide comprising residues -20 to 125 of SEQ ID NO: 27.

23 (New) The nucleic acid sequence of Claim 18, further comprising one or more regulatory sequences, promoters, SD sequences, initiation codons, splice junctions of RNA, polyadenylation regions, transcription end sequences or origins of replication.

24 (New) The complement of the nucleic acid sequence of Claim 18.

25 (New) A vector comprising the nucleic acid sequence of Claim 18.

26 (New) The vector of Claim 25, which is an expression vector.

27 (New) A host cell comprising the nucleic acid sequence of Claim 18.

28 (New) The host cell of Claim 27 which is a prokaryotic cell.

29 (New) The host cell of Claim 27 which is *Escherichia coli*.

30 (New) The host cell of Claim 27, which is *Bacillus subtilis*.

31 (New) The host cell of Claim 27, which is a eukaryotic cell.

32 (New) The host cell of Claim 27, which is yeast.

33 (New) The host cell of Claim 27, which is an insect cell.

34 (New) The host cell of Claim 27, which is a mammalian cell.

35 (New) A method for making a polypeptide which has an phospholipase A2 activity comprising:

expressing the nucleic acid sequence of Claim 18 under conditions suitable for production of a polypeptide having phospholipase A2 activity.

36 (New) The method of Claim 35, which comprises culturing a host cell transformed with said nucleic acid.

37 (New) The method of Claim 35, further comprising purifying or separating the polypeptide having phospholipase activity.

38 (New) An antibody which binds to a polypeptide which has a phospholipase A2 activity, and which is encoded by a nucleic acid which hybridizes to the complement of SEQ ID NO: 26 under stringent conditions,

wherein stringent conditions comprise heating at 42°C in 6X SSC, 0.5% SDS and 50% formamide and washing at 68°C in 0.1X SSC and 0.5% SDS.

39 (New) A diagnostic kit comprising the antibody of Claim 38.

40 (New) A method for detecting a phospholipase A2 related disease, comprising

contacting a sample from a subject suspected of having said disease with the antibody of Claim 38.

41 (New) A method for treating a disease phospholipase A2-related disease, comprising:

administering an effective amount of the antibody of Claim 38 to a subject in need thereof.

42 (New) A method for identifying a compound which inhibits phospholipase A2 activity comprising:

contacting a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid which hybridizes to the complement of SEQ ID NO: 26 under stringent conditions and which encodes a polypeptide that has phospholipase A2 activity,

with one or more compound(s) suspected of inhibiting phospholipase A2 activity,

wherein stringent conditions comprise heating at 42°C in 6X SSC, 0.5% SDS and 50% formamide and washing at 68°C in 0.1X SSC and 0.5% SDS.

43 (New) A compound which is obtained by the method of Claim 42 and which inhibits a phospholipase A2 activity.